

Applicants : Deyoe et al.
Appln. No. : 09/483,699
Page : 4

41. (Cancelled)

REMARKS

With this Amendment and Reply, claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42-48 remain present in this application. Claims 1-5, 8-14, 16-20 and 23-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,144,938 (hereinafter Surace) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,091 (hereinafter Polikaitis); claims 15, 32-37 and 40-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Surace in view of Polikaitis and U.S. Patent No. 6,240,347 (hereinafter Everhart); and claims 6-7, 21-22 and 38-39 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of any base claim and any intervening claim. Applicants wish to extend their appreciation to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, but, for the reasons further set forth below, respectfully submit that claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42-48 are allowable.

At the outset, Applicants note that Surace is directed to a voice user interface with personality. Surace defines the term "personality", at col. 3, lns. 23-36, as a voice interface that can be one of friendly-dominant, friendly-submissive, unfriendly-dominant and unfriendly-submissive. Thus, depending upon a specific user's preference, the Surace system can provide an appropriate personality to interface with a user. Applicants also note that while Surace provides prompts that are subscriber specific, the identity of a particular user is determined by a login and password (see Fig. 18 and col. 22, ln. 50 through col. 23, ln. 12).

With respect to claims 1, 16 and 33, Applicants can find no teaching in Surace which is directed to determining whether voice input is associated with a specific user. More specifically, Surace, see col. 22, lns. 52-54, specifically disclose distinguishing one subscriber from another by a login and password. Further, Applicants can find no teaching in Surace which is directed to providing adaptive voice feedback that is level dependent and that provides available commands for a current level.

With respect to claims 2, 17 and 34, Applicants can find no teaching in Surace that is directed to tracking a number of times in which a user has failed to respond for a

Applicants : Deyoe et al.
Appn. No. : 09/483,699
Page : 5

predetermined user-specific time period at a given level and deactivating the speech recognition driven system when a user has failed to respond for a user-specific set number of the predetermined user's specific time periods at the given level. With reference to the cited passage at col. 14, lns. 52-57, the cited passage merely discloses tracking the use of a specific prompt in a prompt history. This does not teach or suggest tracking the number of times in which a user has failed to respond for a predetermined user-specific time period at a given level. With respect to the cited passage at col. 10, lns. 21-46, the cited passage merely discloses lengthening or shortening a prompt provided to a user based upon whether a particular prompt is being repeated in a same session or across sessions. Applicants agree that Surace does not teach providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user-specific time period. However, Applicants respectfully disagree that the combination of Polikaitis and Surace teach or suggest such a system, and submit that any assertion to the contrary must be based on hindsight in view of Applicants' disclosure.

Further, with respect to claims 5, 20 and 37, Applicants cannot find any teaching in Surace that is directed to a speech recognition driven system that adjusts a predetermined user-specific time period, or a user-specific set number of predetermined user-specific time periods as the ability of the specific user changes. In addition, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-8, 10-15, 17-23, 25-32, 34-40 and 42-48 are dependent upon allowable claims and, as such, are also allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed March 29, 2002. With the foregoing discussion, Applicants have fully demonstrated that claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42-48, as amended, are not obvious in view of the combination of Surace and Polikaitis, nor are the claims obvious in view of the combination of Surace, Polikaitis and Everhart.

No new matter has been added with the amendments to the claims. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the title and claims by the current amendment. The first page of the marked-up version is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE," with added text underlined and deleted text in [brackets].

Applicants : Deyoe et al.
Appln. No. : 09/483,699
Page : 6

CONCLUSION

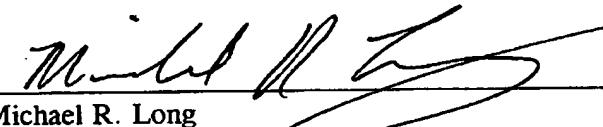
For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 10-23, 25-40 and 42 48 are allowable. If the Examiner has any questions or comments with respect to this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (616) 949-9610.

Respectfully submitted,

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Applicants : Deyoe et al.
Appln. No. : 09/483,699
Page : 7

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

The first paragraph of the Specification has been amended as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/480,227, [TBD (Docket No. DP-301962)] filed January 10, 2000, entitled "SPEECH RECOGNITION WITH ADAPTIVE VOICE FEEDBACK" to Scott A. Deyoe, Tuan A. Hoang and Shishong Huang.

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 16 and 33 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for providing user specific adaptive voice feedback in a multi-level speech recognition driven system, comprising the steps of:

detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input;

determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system;

providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level;

determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized by the speech recognition driven system; and

performing a speech selectable task when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

Applicants : Deyoe et al.
Appln. No. : 09/483,699
Page : 8

16. (Amended) A multi-level speech recognition driven system for providing user specific adaptive voice feedback, comprising:

a memory subsystem for storing information;

a processor coupled to the memory subsystem;

an audio input device coupled to the processor, the input device receiving a voice input from a user;

an audio output device coupled to the processor, the output device providing adaptive voice feedback to the user; and

speech recognition code for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input;

determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system;

providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level;

determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized by the speech recognition driven system; and

performing a speech selectable task when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system.

33. (Amended) A multi-level speech recognition driven system for controlling motor vehicle accessories that provides user specific adaptive voice feedback, comprising:

a memory subsystem for storing information;

a processor coupled to the memory subsystem;

a motor vehicle accessory coupled to the processor;

an audio input device coupled to the processor, the input device receiving a voice input from a user;

Applicants : Deyoe et al.
Appln. No. : 09/483,699
Page : 9

an audio output device coupled to the processor, the output device providing adaptive voice feedback to the user; and

speech recognition code for causing the processor to perform the steps of:

detecting whether a user of the speech recognition driven system has provided a voice input;

determining whether a voice input is associated with a specific user that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system;

providing adaptive voice feedback to the user when the user has not provided a voice input for a predetermined user specific time period, wherein the adaptive voice feedback is level dependent and provides available commands for a current level;

determining whether the voice input provided by the user is recognized by the speech recognition driven system; and

controlling the motor vehicle accessory according to a speech selectable task when the voice input provided by the user corresponds to a speech selectable task that is recognized by the speech recognition driven system.